

15. (previously amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the network is a telecommunications network.

16. (previously amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the network is an energy supply net.

17. (previously amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the network is a network of traffic engineering systems.

18. (previously amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the network is a network of process engineering measurement/control systems.

REMARKS

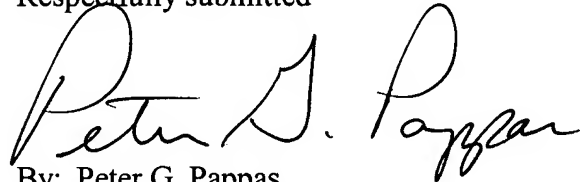
After the foregoing preliminary amendment, the application includes claims 1 and 3-18. Claim 2 has been cancelled and claims 1, 7, 8, and 11 have been amended. The remaining claims are unchanged.

According to the Office Action, claims 2, 7, and 8 are allowable. As such, those claims are rewritten as independent claims including all the subject matter of the independent claim 1. Likewise, independent claim 11 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 2. Accordingly, Applicant submits that all claims are now allowable as amended.

The requisite fee of \$100.00 for one additional independent claim over three is enclosed herewith.

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action and the allowance of all claims is respectfully requested. If there are any issues which can be resolved by a telephone conference or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (404) 853-8064.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter G. Pappas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peter" and last name "Pappas" clearly distinguishable.

By: Peter G. Pappas
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